

# CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

Chairman Cedric L. Richmond

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## TALKING POINTS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN INFLUENCERS

### *Main Point*

- If we want to truly help communities of color and rural communities, then we need at least 218 voting members in the House (and 51 voting members in the Senate) who share our values.
  - And the only way we're going to get that is if we vote in the upcoming midterm election.

### *Introduction*

- On August 19, 2016, before an overwhelmingly white crowd in Diamondale, Mich., then presidential candidate Donald J. Trump made a pitch to African-American voters: "What do you have to lose by trying something new, like Trump? ... What the hell do you have to lose?"
- A month after his inauguration, the Congressional Black Caucus met with President Trump at the White House and answered his question in the form of a 130-page policy document.
  - The title of the document was ["We Have A Lot to Lose."](#)
  - The Trump Administration never responded to the document. They also haven't responded to 99 percent of the policy letters the CBC has sent them.
- Now, almost two years into his presidency, the Congressional Black Caucus thinks it is safe to say that African Americans have lost a lot.
- And many of the things that we've lost not only hurt communities of color, but rural communities as well.

### *What We've Lost*

- We have lost safety and security in our communities.
  - Almost every day President Trump says something that make the bigots in his base feel like it's OK to hurt black and brown people.
    - President Trump encouraged police brutality. ([Article](#))

- After Charlottesville, President Trump morally equated white supremacist with anti-racist protestors. ([Article](#))
  - President Trump called football players who kneel during the National Anthem “sons of bitches. ([Article](#))
  - President Trump called African countries, Haiti and El Salvador “shithole” countries. ([Article](#))
- We have lost justice and equality.
  - Relaunch of the War on Drugs at the Department of Justice
  - Rollback of Affirmative Action Policies at the Department of Education
  - Rollback of Fair Housing Policies at the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- We have lost healthcare protections.
  - Rollback of Obamacare Policies
- We have lost economic security.
  - Stagnant Wages/Underemployment Despite Historically Low Unemployment Rate for African Americans
  - Republican Tax Law
  - Trump’s Budget Proposal
- We have lost the federal judiciary, including the Supreme Court.
  - President Trump is appointing white, male conservative judges to the federal bench, many of whom are unqualified.
  - President Trump is trying to make the Supreme Court more conservative.
- We’ve lost trust in the presidency.
  - President Trump’s Lies
  - President Trump’s Alleged Collusion with Russia
  - Russian Interference in 2016 Election

### *Conclusion*

- In 2016, African Americans knew then like we know now, that we had a lot to lose under President Trump.
- And now our worst fears have come true.

- The scariest part is that we could lose even more if we don't vote in the upcoming midterm election.
  - If we want to truly help communities of color and rural communities, then we need at least 218 voting members in the House (and 51 voting members in the Senate) who share our values.
  - If Democrats take back the house, then the Congressional Black Caucus would insist that they pass the Caucus' [10 must-do policies within the first 100 days](#), as well as the Caucus' [Jobs and Justice Act of 2018](#) – a comprehensive 1,300 page bill that the CBC introduced in May.